

Welcome to the Homeless Liaison list. This listserv is a communication between the SD-DOE State Homeless Coordinator and the school districts' liaisons. Periodically, you will be receiving a short newsletter pertaining to the education of children and youth experiencing homelessness. If you have questions or comments, please direct them to [Laura.Johnson-Frame@state.sd.us](mailto:Laura.Johnson-Frame@state.sd.us). Where it is appropriate, your questions and comments will be shared with all liaisons across South Dakota.

Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program  
Title VII-B of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act  
Amended by NCLB Act of 2001

*LEA Homeless Liaison Newsletter*  
*2006-2007, No. 1*  
*September*

**What is meant by the term “homeless children and youth”?**

The McKinney-Vento Act defines “homeless children and youth” as individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. The term includes –

- Children and youth who are:
  - sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason (sometimes referred to as doubled-up);
  - living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to lack of alternative adequate accommodations;
  - living in emergency or transitional shelters;
  - abandoned in hospitals; or
  - awaiting foster care placement;
- Children and youth who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;
- Children and youth who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and
- Migratory children who qualify as homeless because they are living in circumstances described above.

**What are enrollment barriers?**

The school enrollment and retention barriers that homeless children and youth most frequently face are the following: transportation, immunization requirements, residency requirements, providing birth certificates, and legal guardianship requirements.

### **What are a school's responsibilities for enrolling homeless children and youth?**

A school selected on the basis of a "best interest determination" must immediately enroll the homeless child or youth, even if the child or youth is unable to produce the records normally required for enrollment (such as previous academic records, medical records, proof of residency, birth certificates, or other documentation). The enrolling school must immediately contact the school last attended by the child or youth to obtain relevant academic or other records.

If a child or youth needs to obtain immunizations, or medical or immunization records, the enrolling school must immediately refer the parent or guardian to the LEA homeless liaison, who must assist in obtaining the immunizations or records. The records must be maintained so that they are available in a timely fashion when the child enters a new school or school district. To facilitate immediate enrollment, timely transfer of records from school to school should also take into account procedures for State-to-State record transfers.

Need more information, call or write. Resources may be found at <http://doe.sd.gov/oess/title/homeless/> Thanks

Laura Johnson Frame  
Education Program Representative  
Neglected and Delinquent, Title I, Part D  
Homeless Children and Youth  
South Dakota Department of Education  
700 Governors Drive  
Pierre, SD 57501  
605-773-2491  
605-773-3782 (fax)  
Laura.Johnson-Frame@state.sd.us